

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 99-258

May 10, 1999

PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT
Application for Approval
of Issue of Securities (§ 902)
(\$6,500,000)

ORDER APPROVING
ISSUE OF SECURITIES

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

In this Order we approve the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 by Portland Water District. On April 20, 1999, the Portland Water District (the District) filed with the Commission its application for authority to issue its 1999 Revenue Refunding Bonds in a sum not to exceed \$6,500,000 through Fleet Securities, Inc., at an annual rate not to exceed 5.5 percent. The debt will be repaid over a term not to exceed 16 years.

The District requires these funds to refund or refinance its 1994 Series F water bonds originally issued through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. The purpose of this refunding is to reduce interest expenses and thus generate savings for the District and its ratepayers. In addition to refinancing the Series F Bonds, the District will also reduce the amount outstanding by \$1.5 to \$2.0 million using accumulated excess cash.

The District is considering structuring the refinancing in three ways. The first is including a \$1.5 million appropriation from accumulated earnings. The second is using no appropriation from accumulated earnings. The third way is using a 10-year amortization schedule combined with the appropriation from accumulated earnings. The net present value savings are \$127,630 or 2.27%, \$115,538 or 2.06%, and \$171,042 or 3.05%, respectively. The absolute savings are \$2,225,600, \$96,411, and \$2,800,116, respectively. The savings figures include all costs of issuance.

The exact amount of the refunding bond issue will be determined at the pricing date of the bond issue. The District plans to move forward with the pricing of the bond issue upon approval from the Public Utilities Commission and if the interest rates remain low.

Having reviewed the application of the District, together with data filed in support of it, it is the opinion of the Commission that the proceeds of the issuance of the bonds are required in good faith for the purposes enumerated in 35-A M.R.S.A. § 901. In approving this securities issue, consistent with normal practice and pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 902(4), the Commission does not imply approval of the District's capital needs or capitalization ratio for ratemaking purposes, nor does this Order limit or restrict the powers of the Commission in determining or fixing any rate.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

1. That the Portland Water District is hereby authorized to sell its bonds in a sum not to exceed \$6,500,000 to be used solely for the purposes described in this Order, and at a rate not to exceed 5.5 percent per year through Fleet Securities, Inc. for a term not to exceed 16 years.

2. That the Portland Water District report to this Commission, in writing, its actions pursuant to this Order within sixty (60) days of the date of the sale of the proposed bonds, or by July 15, 1999, whichever may come first.

3. That the Administrative Director mail an attested copy of this Order to interested parties and close this Docket.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 10th day of May, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
Nugent
Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of adjudicatory proceedings are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 6(N) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.11) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which consideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.